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Brenda Horner, Mayor

FMCSA 97-2350-22110

October 31, 2000

Gentlemen,

Recently the U.S. Department of Transportation proposed rules that cause me great concerns for the safety of my fellow citizens. As the mayor of Carlisle, I am responsible for the safety of residents in my community. And as drafted the USDOT rules would restrict the hours that utility company service drivers can operate during an emergency.

I believe workers should get the same exemptions being granted for police and firefighters. In our town, utility workers are a vital key to meeting the needs of our emergency services. The men and women of our power company protect our homes from power outages, keep our children safe when an accident downs power lines and allows the fire department to more quickly contain and control fires.

When a devastating ice storm struck our town, many of our citizens lost power and were in danger of suffering from extreme temperatures. This emergency truly endangered the lives of children and the elderly alike and it was the utility employees that worked day and night to restore the power to our homes.

To restrict the hours of operations for utilities is a grave mistake. I urge the USDOT to exempt utility workers as it exempts other necessary emergency personnel.

Sincerely,

Mayor Brenda Horner